

# San Juan Public Lands People



## Employee News Fall 2007



### Howard is New Head of the Manti-LaSal NF

**DURANGO** - After four years as the San Juan's Assistant Forest Supervisor/Center Manager, Howard Sargent is heading west to become Supervisor of the Manti-LaSal NF in Utah.

"I know it's going to be interesting and challenging," Howard says. "There will be a whole new group of people to get to know and work with on the unit, in the region and externally. I'm looking forward to it."

Howard came to the San Juan from the Medicine Bow-Routt NF, where he worked as Yampa District Ranger. Prior to that, he was the Forest Planner on the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF.

Howard began his FS career as a Forester Trainee on the Helena NF in Montana and went on to work for NFs in Idaho, Washington, and Wisconsin.

"I hope I've helped the San Juan and contributed to accomplishing important work," Howard says. "In some ways, it feels like I'm leaving too soon, because I really would have liked to complete the plans and get started on implementing them."

Howard grew up in Illinois and received his bachelor's degree in Forest Sciences from the University of Illinois. Mona will continue to work here in the PLC as part of the ISO organization. Their daughter, Stephanie, a junior in high school, will stay with mom in Durango so that Stephanie can finish high school here. Their son, Sean, graduated from college this past spring and is preparing for graduate school. He is currently living in the Denver area.

It's been an incredible learning experience, and I've had a lot of support from the folks here on the San Juan," he says.  
- Ann Bond, San Juan Public Affairs Specialist



**Mona and Howard Sargent show off their photo of the San Juan Leadership Team at Howard's going-away party.**

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# PLC NEWS



## Front Desk Changes

**DURANGO** - The San Juan Mountains Association is making some Visitor Services changes at the PLC Front Desk. Barbara Telecky is the new Assistant Bookstore Manager and Visitor Services, filling the shoes of Juli Zatorski, who accepted a BLM position with Administration and Visitor Information in Glenwood Springs.

Barbara had been offering support at the Columbine Office in Bayfield. She first came to the San Juan as a FS seasonal employee working on the National Visitor Use Monitoring Survey. Barbara has worked as a Visitor Information Seasonal for the Sequoia and Los Padres NFs in California. She has also managed two retail stores in her career.

"I love merchandising and creating displays," says Barbara, who also enjoys incorporating interpretive messages in her displays.

Bill Hayes, who has been a part-time SJMA employee at the PLC Front Desk since 2004, will step away from Visitor Services to become lead representative for the SJMA tool cache, offering support to volunteer projects.

"I'm looking forward to a change," he says. "I enjoy working hard in the outdoors."

Most recently, Bill has been working with youth groups and public school children on National Public Lands Day projects.

"We'll miss Bill's many contributions to the Durango office," says Art Sanchez, USFS/BLM Visitor Information Specialist. "Customers really appreciate his first-hand knowledge of the backcountry and, of course, his fishing expertise."

Mark Winkworth will temporarily step into SJMA Visitor Services part-time in Bayfield and Durango until the end of the year. Mark just completed the new design of the SJMA website.

-Alan Peterson, SJMA Visitor Services

## San Juan Reviewed

**DURANGO** - USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Office and BLM Colorado State Office staffers spent a week on the San Juan this fall, interviewing our staff and external partners in an effort to understand our challenges and accomplishments. Preliminary results from the Integrated Resource Review and General Management Evaluation are that the members of the team were impressed with our workload.

The team spent time at our offices in Durango, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs, and Dolores. Their goal was to review planning and organizing priorities, execution and implementation of work, staffing and communication on the unit, as well as budgeting and accomplishments.

Review team members say they came away with an awareness of the multiple complex projects handled by San Juan staff and an appreciation for the expertise and dedication of our employees. They also pointed out some remaining challenges and the need to follow through on targets.

Overall the review turned out favorably, and the San Juan Leadership Team should see a draft review in the next couple of months with a chance to respond before it becomes final, whereupon a formal report will be sent to us. Thank you to everyone who took the time to help the team with its review.

- Ron Duvall, San Juan Administrative Officer



**Members of the regional and state review team load a bus headed for all points on the San Juan in late September.**

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## COLUMBINE NEWS

## Ron Retires, Craig Named FMO

**BAYFIELD** - After 35 years with the USFS, Columbine Fire Management Officer Ron Klatt has retired. Ron started his career as a Wilderness Guard on the San Juan's old Animas RD in 1973.

For the next four years, he worked as a seasonal in campground maintenance, fee collection, compliance, fire, and trail maintenance. Ron began seasonal work as a Range Tech on the Animas RD in 1979, then accepted a full-time appointment in 1984 as Information Receptionist.

He soon changed career directions and became Range Conservationist on the Pine RD in Bayfield. As a Range Con, Ron was responsible for doing field work for range and wildlife. In 1993, the two districts merged to become the Columbine RD, and Ron took on the responsibilities of Fire Management Officer. He became full-time FMO for the Columbine in 2003.

Ron graduated from Cortez High School in 1964 and obtained a degree in Business Finance at Colorado State University in 1969. He looks forward to spending his retirement traveling to new and old places.

"I would like to spend more time visiting some of the places I fought fires in the past and did not have the time to enjoy the surrounding area while there on official business," Ron says. He is also looking to spending more time in the woods - hiking, skiing and hunting.

Craig Goodell has been named as the new Columbine Fire Management Officer to replace Ron. As former Assistant Fire Management Officer, Craig gained extensive experience in fire suppression, wildland fire use, prescribed burning and mechanical fuels treatment.

Craig holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Fort Lewis College and a Master's degree from Colorado State University in Forestry with an emphasis in Fire Ecology.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges of my new position," Craig says. "It is great to be able to continue my career in a place where I have a lot of familiarity and ties."

- Stan Sparks, Columbine Visitor Information Specialist



**Ron Klatt (right) and Craig Goodell, Ron's replacement as Columbine FMO, on a fire.**



**Michael Rash shows off one of the most important jobs in the USFS during the San Juan National Forest Centennial Parade in Durango.**

## Rash Retires

**BAYFIELD** - Michael Rash, Columbine Sanitary Technician, has retired after 21 years of service.

Michael, a Columbine legend in his own time, started cleaning toilets in the spring of 1982, after former Columbine employee Biff Stransky brought him an application while he and his wife Maggie were serving campground hosts near Purgatory.

For nearly two and half decades, Michael traveled his 150-mile-a-day route, cleaning the 21 toilets in Columbine campgrounds and dispersed areas.

Being a Sanitary Technician, Michael admits, "is not the most glamorous job, but it allowed me to spend my days working in some of the most beautiful country around and that made it all worth while."

Michael plans on spending more time with Maggie, extended family and friends during his retirement years.

- Stan Sparks

## PAGOSA NEWS

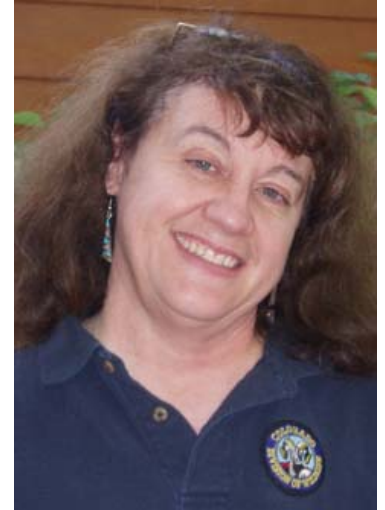
### Elizabeth Covers Double Duties

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Elizabeth Reid is working the Pagosa Front Desk for both the San Juan Mountains Association and Colorado Division of Wildlife. For most of the year, she'll be an SJMA employee providing public-lands information, but during hunting season, she'll work for CDOW, handling chronic wasting disease testing, harvested bears, hunting licenses, and hunter-safety cards.

"We're delighted to have Elizabeth's skills and experience in our office," says Phyllis Wheaton, USFS/BLM Visitor Information Specialist. "It's a bonus that hunters don't usually find in our offices."

Elizabeth has worked as a seasonal for the Division for a decade, and also worked at the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce. She has lived in the Four Corners area most of her life, residing in Pagosa Springs since 1989. Husband, Mike Reid, also works for the Division, and they have two college-aged children. She enjoys quilting, writing and drawing, and loves to hike, camp, and fish.

-Alan Peterson



(Left to right)  
Ron  
Monteferrante,  
Beth Jones, and  
Rick Jewell get  
out of the office  
to work on a new  
and improved  
look for the  
Pagosa Office.



### Office Gets New Landscaping

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - The Pagosa Office now has sustainable landscaping, thanks to a xeriscaping project coordinated by Pagosa employees Beth Jones and Gretchen Fitzgerald. The effort was funded through a Rocky Mountain Regional Energy and Water microgrant to support water-conservation efforts in the southwest.

"This will save hundreds of gallons of water from being used to keep our non-native lawn green," Jones says. "It will also reinforce the water-conservation ideologies of the agency."

The grant paid for the materials, and part of the design work was donated by Landscape Designer, Sara Thelen. Thirty-two Pagosa employees helped remove cement edging and non-native vegetation, then planted low-maintenance lawn and plants. They also placed landscaping rock between the sidewalk and building. Archuleta County Education Center students will help maintain the landscaping through a Service Learning project.

The project will serve as an educational garden for the public to learn about environmentally conscious landscaping, native plants, and the importance of water conservation. Another outcome will be decreased costs from less water usage and lawn maintenance.

- Phyllis Wheaton

### Paul's Ready for Rec

**PAGOSA SPRINGS** - Paul Blackman is Pagosa's new Recreation Staff Officer. Originally from Washington, D.C., he holds an undergraduate degree in philosophy from the University of Maryland, and a master's degree in recreation management from the University of Wyoming.

While in college, Paul worked as a seasonal in recreation on the Routt NF. His first permanent position was Recreation Technician on the Medicine-Bow NF, then Recreation Planner.

"The immediate challenge comes from stepping into a job done by one person for so long," he says. However, he doesn't plan to try to fill Ron Decker's shoes. "I've brought my own shoes," he says.

Paul, wife Holly, and their one-year-old daughter, Karis, live in Pagosa with their golden retriever, Lucy. They all enjoy outdoor activities.

Paul is also a guitarist and has been a working musician.

-Phyllis  
Wheaton





## DOLORES NEWS

## Ashton's in Timber

**DOLORES** - Ashton Hargrave is the latest Forestry Technician to join the Dolores Public Lands Office. He is responsible for fieldwork in timber-sale preparation and reforestation, including layout, marking, inventory sampling, and cruising. He'll also assist with fieldwork related to the fire and fuels program. During the off season, Ashton will help with planning and sale package preparation.

Originally from Wheat Ridge, Ashton began his career in the corporate world as a mathematician and analyst. In 2001, he set out on a new course by volunteering for the GMUG NF. After three seasons of volunteering on a timber crew, Ashton accepted a term appointment on the San Isabel NF. Two years later, he decided that a career in forestry was going to require some formal education, so returned to college full-time to earn a degree in forestry.

Speaking of education, Ashton has his share of it. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Colorado State University, a Master's in Mineral Economics from the Colorado School of Mines, and last but not least, a Master's in Forest Sciences from CSU.

Ashton's longtime girlfriend, Pauline Adams, works for the GMUG NF as a Fisheries Biologist and Water Rights Coordinator. He's also quite fond of Figaro, his pet tetra fish. Ashton enjoys playing guitar and reading, as well as telemark skiing, ice hockey, mountain biking, hiking and camping. "Most recently I purchased a fixer-upper in Cortez, so my current hobby is home restoration and remodeling," he says.

- Toni Kelly, DPLO Visitor Information Specialist



## AHC/CANM NEWS

## Unit Receives National Award

**DOLORES** – BLM Anasazi Heritage Center/Canyons of the Ancients National Monument staffers traveled to Minnesota this fall to receive the prestigious Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The BLM organization was one of 21 national award winners honored at the 2007 National Preservation Conference.

The award recognized the unit for forging dozens of partnerships to protect the Monument's cultural resources and to operate the Heritage Center. The partnerships involved local, state and county governments; colleges and universities; tribal elders; nonprofit organizations; and volunteers.

"The Southwest is home to some of the country's most fascinating cultural resources and offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the legacy of the first Americans," said Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation



(From left to right) Mark Wolfe, Colorado State Historical Fund; Susan Thomas, Ernest Vallo, Pueblo of Acoma; LouAnn Jacobson; Linda Farnsworth; Victoria Atkins; Susan Barnes, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

President. "These partners are doing extraordinary work to protect and interpret a significant part of our Native American heritage."

Almost 300 volunteers contribute 13,000 hours every year to AHC/Monument projects. Boy Scouts remove vegetation that poses a fire threat to a rock-art site, and an Elderhostel group helps document rock art with drawings and photos. Tribal elders provide commentary for brochures and exhibits on the meaning of the cultural landscape. College students participate in archaeological field schools that inventory and document significant sites. Dozens of volunteers help monitor site conditions, collect trash, provide information to visitors, and reclaim damaged areas.

- National Trust for Historic Preservation Press Website

## MISC ...



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You are also welcome to call Ann Bond with your preference at 970 385-1219.



## Mission Accomplished!

**BAXTER PEAK, MAINE -** Chris Schultz, Columbine Wildlife Biologist, reached the end of his Appalachian Trail journey on September 30, summing 5,267-foot Mount Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine.

"It was a spectacular way to end my 2,200-mile, six-month walk in the woods," Chris posted in his web journal.

"In some ways I was sad to see it end, but in other ways, I'm ready to go home. It was an excellent trip, and I'm glad I did it, but I'm not terribly anxious to run off and do another one next year. My feet need time to recover first, and I've missed Benda and Riley ... but I wouldn't trade this trip for anything. It was certainly the trip of a lifetime!"

You can read all about it on Chris' online journal at:  
<http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?trailname=5363>



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